The Government has launched a Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North East including Sikkim. One of the components under the Technology Mission (Mini-Mission-IV), relates to promotion of new units, upgradation and modernization of existing units and promotional activities.

Employment through labour intensive technology in FPIs

†3391. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are potentials for creating maximum employment opportunities in the Food Processing Industries by encouraging labour-intensive technology; if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(b) the institutes entrusted with exploring such technology during the last three years;

(c) the status of research undertaken by those institutes; and

(d) what facilities Government had decided to give to that industry to encourage the use of labour-intensive technology, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) As per the Report of the Annual Survey of Industries 1997-98, employment in Food Processing Industries was 38,784 for investment of Rs. 1000 crores, which is comparatively higher than that in (i) heavy industry and (ii) agriculture and allied industries.

(b) The following Institutions among others, who had developed labour intensive technology in different sectors of Food Processing have been assisted under this Ministry's Plan Scheme.

1. Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi. (Fisheries)
2. Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore. (Pulse Milling)
3. Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh. (Meat & Poultry)

(c) The CIFT had developed labour intensive technology for:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1. Fish curing
2. Development of ready-to-serve products like fish cutlets, fish wafers etc.

The CFTRI had developed a mini dal mill as well as technologies for ready-to-serve products and for increasing the shelf-life.

The IVRI had developed technology to be adopted by small scale entrepreneurs with considerable manual input for meat products. Preparation of chicken nuggets and chicken patties on cottage scale basis are some of the technologies developed, which are labour intensive.

(d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its' Plan Schemes gives 100% assistance for R&D projects for developing technology as also for HRD component for training the entrepreneurs. During the last three years the total expenditure on the R&D scheme works out to Rs. 18.07 crores.

Integrated Food Law for commodity boards

3392. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of moving commodity boards from the Ministry of Commerce to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, to prepare a modern integrated food law, and to meet related requirements; and

(b) if so, what is the progress made so far in this regard and what is the time-frame by when such a law would come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) The issue of attaching the Commodity Boards which are presently under Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce etc. with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been taken up. In order to formulate a modern integrated food law and to meet related requirements, a Group of Ministers has been constituted. Since the process of consultation among different Ministries of the Government of India is involved, no time frame could be indicated.

Investment in FPIs

3393. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) functioning in the country, State-wise;